REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application.

Office Action Summary

Claims 1, 8, 18, 22, 23, 62 and 65 are objected to for various informalities.

Claims 4 and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1-7, 9-21, 23-27, 29-35, 37, and 62-65 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Sehr (US 6,085,976).

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Sehr in view of Nel (US 6,507,823).

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Sehr in view of DeMarcken (US 2004/0078251).

Claims 28 and 36 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Sehr in view of Official Notice.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-37 and 62-65 were examined. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10-14, 17-23, 28 and 29 to more clearly recite existing limitations. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 7, 8, 24, 25 and 62-65 are cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 9-23 and 26-37 are pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 8, 18, 22, 23, 62 and 65 are objected to for various informalities. Claims 1, 18, 22 and 23 have been amended accordingly. Claims 8, 62 and 65 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 4 and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 4 and 29 have been amended accordingly.

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Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-7, 9-21, 23-27, 29-35, 37, and 62-65 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Sehr.

Claims 7, 24, 25 and 62-65 are cancelled without prejudice, rendering moot their respective rejections. Accordingly, the following remarks and arguments are directed only to the pending claims.

Claim 1

Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly recite an existing limitation. As amended, claim 1 recites:

> A method of booking airline travel at an automatic teller machine (ATM), comprising:
>> **entering at least one booking query at an ATM having an ATM interface by a customer;**
>> gathering selected booking information in response to the booking query and displaying gathered booking information at the ATM interface;
>> selecting a booking from the displayed gathered booking information by the customer at the ATM interface; and
>> receiving a confirmation of selected gathered booking information at the ATM interface.

(emphasis added).

The Office Action states that Sehr discloses all of the limitations of claim 1. In particular, the Office Action states that Sehr teaches entering at least one booking query at an ATM interface, citing to column 1, line 30 and column 9, line of Sehr (7/17/07 Office Action, para. 17). Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that the Examiner has conflated two unrelated pieces of information in an attempt to read the disclosure of Sehr onto claim 1. The first cited line of Sehr is a fragment of a sentence beginning at line 28 of column 1, which states:

> The functional components encompass, for example, PCs, or other computing platforms, POS-terminals and PIN-tablets, ATM-machines, card read/write devices, biometrics boxes and other computer peripherals and the passenger card per se.

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(Sehr col. 1, lines 28-32).

Applicant would like to point out that while an ATM-machine is listed in the cited passage, there is no reference to any function specifically associated with the ATM machine. The only other reference to "ATM" in Sehr is with respect to methods of payment, not with entering booking queries as recited in claim 1. That passage states:

> The banking module (26) allows the passenger to pay for the tickets or for new passenger cards, as well as to load a monetary value or electronic payment points into the passenger card. To purchase the tickets or cards, the passengers can select appropriate payment means from among a set of options (27) that include cash, checks, **ATM (Automated Teller Machine) cards**, credit/debit banking cards, or a passenger card. The banking module verifies the received or requested payment data and related information for the purpose of authorizing and settling the appropriate payment options. This verification and clearing process can be accomplished via a network transaction processor by communicating with the banking module for the purpose of settling the appropriate fund transfers, or via the passenger card by deducting the monetary value or payment points previously stored in the card.

(Sehr, col. 10, lines 22-37) (emphasis added).

What Sehr discloses is the use of an ATM **card** to pay for booking services. Sehr does not disclose the use of an **automated teller machine** to make and book travel arrangements.

The second citation relied on by the Office Action is also a fragment of a sentence, which begins at line 20 of column 9, and which states:

> The travel map (22) lets the user explore various travel itineraries, while automatically providing alternative routes and related recommendations. For example, the passenger inputs into, or points and clicks on, the map the departure and destination locations, including the date of travel and number of tickets requested.

(Sehr, col. 9, lines 20-25).

The "travel map" disclosed by Sehr is displayed at a card station that is required for booking travel.

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The CARD STATION (1) allows a passenger, or any other entity, to interact with or couple to the system while planning and evaluating a particular trip or several travel itineraries, including making the appropriate reservations and loading the related ticket and travel information into the passenger card. The station can further be used to **download monetary value into the passenger card**, pay for travel-related services via the card-based means, and upload the electronic payments to a service provider. The station can also be used to **compile the contents of the passenger card**, so as to serve multiple application needs while hosting the related application modules in the same card.

(Sehr, col. 4, lines 27-38) (emphasis added).

Sehr's card station is required because Sehr's disclosed system requires a "passenger card" to book travel. Sehr discloses that the "passenger card" is a variety of smart card with embedded electronics that requires a special card reader, well beyond the capabilities of a conventional ATM machine (*see, e.g.,* Sehr, col. 6, lines 16-51).

Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Sehr.

Claims 2-6, 9-21, 23, 26, 27, 29-35 and 37

Claims 2-6, 9-21, 23, 26, 27, 29-35 and 37 depend from claim 1 and include all of the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 2-6, 9-21, 23, 26, 27, 29-35 and 37 are not anticipated by Sehr for at least the reasons discussed above.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claim 8

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Sehr in view of Nel (US 6,507,823). Claim 8 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 22

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Sehr in view of DeMarcken (2004/0078251). Claim 22 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the

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limitations of claim 1. As noted above, Sehr does not disclose, teach or suggest a method for booking airline travel at an ATM that includes "entering at least one booking query at an ATM having an ATM interface by a customer," as recited in claim 1.

Demarcken is directed to dividing travel queries into sub-queries for execution by a travel planning system (DeMarcken, Abstract). DeMarcken discloses dividing travel queries into sub-queries for the purpose of parallel processing travel requests (DeMarcken, para. [0006]). DeMarcken does not disclose, teach or suggest a method for booking airline travel at an ATM that includes "entering at least one booking query at an ATM having an ATM interface by a customer," as recited in claim 1.

Applicant submits, therefore, that Sehr and DeMarcken, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject limitation and that claim 22 is not obvious over Sehr in view of Demarcken.

Claims 28 and 36

Claims 28 and 36 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Sehr in view of Official Notice. Claims 28 and 36 depend from claim 1 and include all of the limitations of claim 1. As noted above, Sehr does not disclose, teach or suggest a method for booking airline travel at an ATM that includes "entering at least one booking query at an ATM having an ATM interface by a customer," as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 28 and 36 are not obvious over Sehr in view of the Examiner's Official Notice.

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Conclusion

Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

The examiner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this paper to Deposit Account 08-1641 (40921-0002).

Respectfully submitted,

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